

The Sun.

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No Packed Platform Yet.

Ten so-called "declarations upon the national issues of the hour" appear in the platform adopted night before last at Albany. We suppose they are intended for honest scrutiny. If they are not intended to undergo the color test, their pretentious announcement was a piece of humbug insulting alike to the people and to the convention's honorable candidate.

For the purpose of analysis we select those three of the ten "declarations" which, considered together, seem superficially to answer most closely to the description in the preamble, namely, that of a specific and actual national issue. In grouping the three declarations, we disturb the order in which they were originally presented:

"The maintenance of State rights and home rule, no centralization."

"Opposition to trusts and combinations that oppress the people and stifle healthy industrial competition."

"Corporations chartered by the State must be subject to just regulation by the State in the interests of the people."

The maintenance of State rights and home rule and resistance to centralization are among the fundamental doctrines and traditional duties of the Democratic party. No true Democrat has ever questioned them; not even when the author of this same platform sought two years ago in another platform of his own composition to proclaim as a Democratic principle the Federal acquisition, by the right of eminent domain, and the Federal occupation and operation of anthracite coal mines within State boundaries.

Opposition to trusts and combinations that oppress the people and stifle healthy industrial competition is a commonplace of universal fact. The opposition exists everywhere. It is as old as the common law. It is not a national issue. The national issue is about the authority which shall be invoked against such oppression. This national issue has been presented squarely by President Roosevelt in his repeated demands for the subjection of business in the States to Federal control, even if an amendment of the United States Constitution be necessary for that purpose.

What does "national issue" Number 3 in the Hill platform mean? Does it mean resistance to, or acquiescence in the extension of Federal power over business? If it means resistance, why does it not say so? If it means acquiescence in Mr. Roosevelt's call for a change of attitude toward property, why does the declaration in Number 3 insist on the maintenance of State rights and denounce centralization?

The remarkable declaration numbered 4 throws no light on these questions. It merely adds to the intellectual confusion. Corporations chartered by the State are already subject to just regulation by the State in the interest of the people. All corporations are State chartered corporations. If there were any issue as to their further regulation by the State, that would be a State issue, not a national issue, as this is here labeled. The question of preventing by State regulation the oppression of the people by trusts or combinations, and the stifling of healthy competition, would belong to another category of issues, those concerning which the present platform expressly postpones any party deliverance until the fall convention.

What does Number 8 mean, as a national issue, in connection with Number 7? What does Number 4 mean, alone or along with the others?

What we have said of the three selected samples is generally true of the whole catalogue, as the most cursory examination of its items will show.

For this platycaine nonsense, this jumble of unrelated, inconsistent and evasive phrases that say nothing while attempting to seem to say much, these outpourings of the small cunning of a cowardly and conscienceless mind, the Hon. ALTON B. PARKER cannot fairly be held responsible in the remotest degree. It falls upon him as a momentary misfortune incidental to the Hon. DAVID B. HILL's own little retail business. Judge PARKER, if he is the man of the hour, will write his own platform in the form and at the time which his sense of propriety suggests, and by his own utterance he will be judged by all candid persons.

Russia Moves in Central Asia.

Notwithstanding the extent to which the Russian Government's attention is engaged in the far east of Asia, it finds time to attend to its interests elsewhere. The Government of Russian Turkestan, Gen. IVANOFF, has issued a proclamation warning the population to remain quiet in the event of the troops being removed from the garrisons to the frontiers of Pershiana in the direction of the Pamirs and Kashgar.

It is rumored that this step has been taken in connection with the intended despatch of an expedition to Yarkand, in Chinese Turkestan. This place is the starting point of at least three trade routes across the Hindu Khoosh into Kashghar, and well on the road into western Tibet. Transport and supplies were already being collected and sent to the eastern frontier of Pershiana, and detachments of troops had been moved; but their destination was not stated.

In India these movements were not

unexpected, but it was not believed that they would amount to more than a demonstration; though in some quarters it was thought to be the beginning of an effective occupation of Chinese Turkestan right up to the Kuen-lun range on the north of Tibet.

From Afghanistan there has come a report that the Russian Government had proposed to the Amir to exchange a part of his territory between Kirkee on the Oxus and Akhchee on the road between Balkh and Maimana, for a tract of fertile country on the side of Badakshan in the northeast. This and the proposition of the British Government for the immediate settlement of the Swat valley and Mohmund frontier had been submitted to a meeting of representatives of the frontier tribes, and they had declared against both, asking that arms might be given them to resist any attempt to enter their country.

A copy of their reply is said to have been sent to the British Government, and it is taken as a sign that the Amir does not desire any settlement at present. The object is to avoid having to give modern breech-loading rifles to the tribesmen, the Amir fearing that they might be improperly used and cause trouble.

The Sundry Civil Bill.

The Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, which is now before the Senate, carries appropriations aggregating \$59,102,400 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, or \$25,400,000 less than the amount appropriated for the current year. The bill for next year as passed by the House appropriated \$56,248,306.11. The Senate added \$2,854,094.04 to this total in items providing increases for public buildings, engraving and printing, the lighthouse service, an office building for the use of the Senators, and a score of other expenditures. The rapid growth of Governmental expenditures is illustrated in striking fashion in a table prepared by Senator ALLISON to accompany the report on the bill, which gives these figures of the appropriations made in the sundry civil acts since 1890:

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
1891	\$29,738,292.22	1900	\$33,811,783.38
1892	37,410,368.20	1901	48,400,212.93
1893	27,963,078.38	1902	48,385,038.96
1894	41,714,311.15	1903	63,319,915.45
1895	34,253,775.55	1904	61,795,908.21
1896	46,568,100.40	1905	60,163,326.13
1897	33,096,710.19	1906	52,372,300.10

In each of these years except 1891 the Sundry Civil act has carried an appropriation for river and harbor work under the contract system, and the total expenditure on such contracts has been \$127,078,171. In 1898 the bill carried \$543,000 for such work not under the contract system, so that the total river and harbor appropriations made in the fourteen years under this heading were \$127,619,261.71. This year Congress has made a poor mouth, and every member has been perfectly willing to cut the other fellow's item to the bone. But in spite of this, the amount of the appropriations is greater than in nine of the preceding fourteen years and double the amount in the bill of 1891.

The appropriations are so great in amount that the figures really convey no adequate idea to the minds of the bulk of the population. Most Americans do not think in millions. However, the figures mean a vast sum even to the least educated mind; and it is comforting to know that the money to pay the appropriation is to be collected from a nation that, according to Dr. WILEY, the pure food man, is 14,000 miles long, 7,000 miles wide and weighs twenty-five billion trillion pounds.

Canada and the Massachusetts Platform.

In the platform prepared for the Massachusetts Republican State convention there is an assertion that "Reciprocity with Canada is a mere phrase used to lull the concessions offered on one side and demanded on the other are stated in detail." This statement is not altogether a happy form of expression under the circumstances.

Beyond any doubt, there is an increasing sentiment in the United States for larger and closer trade relations with our northern neighbor. Along with that there runs a general idea that such an arrangement would be the making of Canada, as well as an excellent thing for us. New England and Detroit are particularly active centres of a reciprocity movement. Both want a wider border market, and both are looking primarily to their own material advantage. In the opinion that reciprocity would be the making of Canada, the Canadians are not disposed to concur. They look over the record of recent years and reach the warranted conclusion that in the matter of making a country they are doing very well with no more of American assistance than that which comes over the border to take advantage of conditions which are made in Canada and which are made by Canadians.

There is, on our side of the line, a tendency to forget or to ignore the fact that the Canadians are very much the same manner of men that we are. They are proud of their country and believe in its future. They ask no favors. There is even a considerable measure of offence across the border because of the ex-

pression which they have encountered, when in earlier and less prosperous days they have come to Washington with tentative proposals for reciprocity. Because Canada has not developed as rapidly as the United States, and because until recent years she lay industrially dormant, an idea has arisen of her helplessness and inferiority. The Canadians may not number so many people as we do, but their heads are to-day carried just as high as ours. It is a question whether, just now, they are not even a little higher.

The objection to the Massachusetts phrase is its implication that an international arrangement is to be effected by a series of offers and demands for concessions between the parties to the transaction. All business contracts and arguments may be, in point of fact, the outcome of precisely such a proceeding, but it is customary to express the operation in more diplomatic terms. In fact, at least,

a friendly conference, a discussion of conditions and an effort to reach conclusions which shall be mutually satisfactory and mutually advantageous.

Were we dealing with England, France, Russia or Germany, it is certain that Secretary HAY would avoid the use of a phrase referring quite so bluntly to offers and demands. The words might have much the same meaning, but he would seek to avoid any possible offence or irritation and speak of proposals and desires. Only in a similar manner can Canada be approached to-day. If we would deal with her we must do so diplomatically, as one group of business men dealing with another group, its equals in national pride and in personal self-respect.

Canada is not asking or seeking reciprocity with the United States. Such a measure is rarely referred to in the Dominion. So far as any movement at all is on foot looking to such an end, it is on our side of the line. Unless the United States can make some proposal or "offer some concession" which Canadians shall regard as distinctly to their advantage, it is doubtful if any direct negotiations can be opened until the scheme of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is more fully determined. But either official Canada or commercial Canada is quite ready at any and at all times to undertake a businesslike discussion of matters relating to her interests, in which it shall be clearly evident that there is something for Canada as well as for the United States. Any overtures must now come from our side. They must be presented with businesslike diplomacy. The Dominion will offer no concessions and will listen to no demands.

As business man to business man, seeking mutual benefits and mutual advantages, Canada will meet us half way, but no more. That benefits and advantages in a reciprocal arrangement and in no way one-sided, is obvious to any one who is familiar with Canadian conditions. That a free exchange of all natural and manufactured products of both countries would be of great advantage to both is as certain as it is that benefit accrues from our own free interstate trade.

The Era of the Torpedo.

Col. W. C. CHURCH, speaking before the Congressional Club on Monday evening of the lessons taught by the war in the Far East, referred to the profound, the revolutionary consequences likely to come from the successful use of the torpedo by the Japanese.

The sinking of the Petropavlovsk, he said, demonstrated the "utter helplessness of the ironclad as a factor in a sea fight," and he called attention to the prediction made many years ago by Capt. ERICSSON of Monitor fame, that the day of the heavily armored battleship was coming to an end and that money spent on that type of war vessel would be wasted.

A few weeks ago application was made to me by a citizen to see if I could help him to get his out of the country. On making inquiry I found the following to be the facts: The father is a worthy and respectable man, whose wife is living and who has three other children. The boy, who is about 15 years of age, had been rather undisciplined and in October last his father made a complaint against him, thinking, as many fathers among the poorer people do, that the boy was incorrigible and that he had better be sent to the Catholic reformatory. The father now wishes to have the custody of his son.

The father is engaged in a small coal and wood business, is amply able to provide for his family, and desires to put the boy to work. The institution would not be able to do this, and the father, with his money, is not able to do it. In his opinion, the boy has not had sufficient disciplinary training in the reformatory to satisfy the authorities thereof that he is to be on the outside of the institution. Being asked what has been the conduct of the boy since he has arrived at the institution, they decline to answer.

No satisfaction is to be had except by instituting legal proceedings. This father is not able to afford, and, as is noticed in your article this morning, it is a question of grave doubt if success would be obtained in the matter of the boy's return to his father's home.

Apparently this institution, and I presume others of the same kind, arrogate to themselves the right to imprison a boy until he shall become of age, if, in their judgment, he does not conform to their conduct as to require it. They are responsible to no one but their own consciences. In this case they might keep a boy six years. If that is not imprudent, without due regard to the fact that I don't know what.

R. M. S. PUTNAM.
NEW YORK, April 19.

The Most Valuable Citizen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—"German-American" should revise his opinions if he really believes Emperor William to be the greatest man in the world to-day. The Kaiser is the greatest man in the world, but as a valuable citizen he does not rank high.

NEW PALTZ, April 18.

Men Will Not Have the Colored Evening Dress.

From the Sartorial Art Journal.
Try as they may, the lovers of the esthetic in men's wear cannot popularize colored evening dress. Gallantry or economy or both cause the human male to hang on to the conventional black. It is not unlikely that such will not be the case a hundred years from now.

Civilization.

A Jap donned trousers gay.
In the place of robes de day.
Which he used to wear all day.
Then he learned to shoot with skill
And the Power, which he had killed,
Watched his bullets maim and kill,
And remarked: "He's civilized."

On the shores of Hattin's Bay
Lived a little Esquimau,
Who made up his mind one day
To be observed by the world.
So he squeezed her pretty waist
In some corsets undressed,
Which she then securely laced.
And remarked: "I'm civilized."

Then a tropic mountaineer
Zulu named, he did for aye,
Then assumed a foreign stride
And imbibed some whiskey straight.
He put on a narrow shoe
And he never stepped astray.
So he got dyspepsia, too.
And remarked: "I'm civilized."

By the ancient Chinese wall
Once a Manchurian race
With a Russian cannon ball
An exploded bomb exploded.
With a bombshell Japanese
By which he was caressed.
And his friends (ascending trees)
All remarked: "He's civilized."

T. YABARA.

AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

Why Michael Davitt Condemns Pro-Japanese Sentiment Here.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Kindly allow me a little more of your space for a reply to "An American" and Mr. Wilton O. Fisher, who have found fault with some of the points relating to recent declarations of the London Times in letters printed by you in your issue of the 16th inst. Permit me to deal with "An American" first.

I have the privilege of knowing hundreds of Americans who live in the thousands in other countries. They, and their fellow-countrymen generally, have a high reputation for the courage of their sentiments; but I am not acquainted with one who would not have the courage to put his name to a letter which would record or express his real opinions or convictions. I have had experience of many alleged "Americans" in public controversy, on both sides of the Atlantic, who try to shelter behind that name both an English personality and purpose, and who are content to let the cost of their real opinions or convictions be made to serve some selfish or sinister British policy.

In "An American's" view, Russia is a menace to the commercial interests of the United States in the Far East, and she is aiming at a naval domination over the Pacific, and aspires to carve up the empire of China to her own liking; and this aggressive Slavonic expansion threatens the welfare of hundreds of thousands of American earners. This is only re-asserting the average English opinion which, under the guise of "American," are carefully propagating here so as to create an anti-Russian feeling in the public mind of this country.

Not one of these contentions is true. It is not Russia but Japan that is likely to be a successful commercial rival to American manufacturing produce in Eastern countries. The Japanese, like the Chinese, will work on the same terms as the English, and the Russians will not. The average daily pay for cotton factory operatives in Japan, working fourteen hours per day, is from 10 to 20 cents. True, this is much higher than the wages paid to labor in this country, which "An American" lauds as an instance of the success of British rule—India. There the average daily pay of the working classes is about 10 cents, and even in the "Prosperous British India," under five cents. This is the land which "An American" declares to be "prosperous and happy," a land where over 10,000,000 of British Indian subjects have died of starvation during the last twenty years.

Russia has a far cleaner record in relation to China, the bone of contention in the present war, than Japan or her ally, England. Russia forced a war on China, and did, to compel the Chinese to import opium grown in British dominions. It was only after the Russian power had been broken that could advance "civilization" and "progress" in this manner.

After the war of 1856-58 Russia saved Peking and the integrity of China from an Anglo-French army. Where were Japan's good offices? England's present ally nine years ago it was Russia, with the assent of France and Germany, that saved the Government and integrity of China from the Japanese. It was only after the Russian power had been broken that could advance "civilization" and "progress" in this manner.

In 1860 Russia saved Peking and the integrity of China from an Anglo-French army. Where were Japan's good offices? England's present ally nine years ago it was Russia, with the assent of France and Germany, that saved the Government and integrity of China from the Japanese. It was only after the Russian power had been broken that could advance "civilization" and "progress" in this manner.

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THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY.

Tapping the Great Lakes the Only Real Solution of the Problem.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The outcry in certain quarters because of the passage of the bill protecting Dutchess county, a small town in the State, against water supply purposes, but really for ring speculation, may as well be dropped. Greater New York will need water, but it should not seek the added supply by appropriating the drainage of rural burynards nor roving the streams needed by the localities in which they rise. These sections are constantly increasing in population, a fact that should admonish us that a temporary system at great cost for procuring water therefrom would soon be rendered useless by inevitable contamination.

The vital question now and for some time to come for this borough, and in fact all of Greater New York, is how to obtain a permanent supply of pure water. The same question is of more or less importance to all the cities of the State, with the rapidly increasing population greater supply becomes necessary, while contiguous water sheds become lessened in area and their surfaces impaired by unhealthy encroachments, until they are rendered almost useless as sources of water. The vast supply of water is constantly expended in attempts to obtain wholesome water to meet the increasing consumption of the city, and the effort to secure pure water is sure to result at no very distant time. We are wasting time and money in attempting to create a water supply by the adoption of one of a practical and sure method would cost. Eventually the latter course will have to be adopted, and all the former expenditure so to waste—with the exception, perhaps, of that for the present reservoirs and aqueducts.

The Great Creator has furnished vast lakes, a chain of them flowing eastward from the city of the State, and the water, with the sweetest, purest water on the face of the globe, an unlimited supply, that for the benefit of the city, and for the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario could be drawn upon for supplying the entire State of New York. The water of the lake from the lake is toward the sea, and water could be easily brought through aqueducts to the city, and the water would be as pure as the water of the lake, and we could have the water problem forever solved. The water would be as pure as the water of the lake, and we could have the water problem forever solved. The water would be as pure as the water of the lake, and we could have the water problem forever solved.

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A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: It was a serious oversight that was committed by the Legislature in framing the Law of the Delay Bill, which failed to include in their provisions creating a board of guardians for infants, and to act as receivers in all cases where guardians and receivers are now appointed by the courts. I have always been of the opinion that the Governor, in his capacity as guardian of the people, should have overlooked that neglect of giving jobs to his henchmen.

By the Law of Delay Bill passed yesterday, the power to appoint referees, when powers of an inseparable part of their judicial and administrative functions, in the opinion of many constitutional lawyers, can no more be denied to them. The function of hearing and deciding cases of the law creates a board to consist of thirty members, with large salaries, whose appointment must be entrusted by the Governor to which board all references in this city are to be sent.

It is hardly denied that the purpose of the law is to create more patronage